Assistance for development of wasteland

1670. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAPART has given assistance for developing wasteland, creating water and food security improving environment and generating employment opportunities in the country.

(b) if so, the number of such projects sanctioned in various States and funds sanctioned to each of such project; and

(c) the area of land that will be treated by such projects in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURAYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Potable water under Swajaldhara Programme

†1671. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide funds for the arrangement of potable water in all the village inhabitations under Swajaldhara Programme;

(b) if so, by when the sanction would be accorded;

(c) whether Government are considering to reduce the public welfare fund from ten per cent to five per cent on economical basis in the tribal dominated inhabitations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to rural habitations. Government of India supplement the efforts of State Governments by extending financial and technical assistance to States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per ARWSP Guidelines, upto 20% of annual ARWSP allocation may be utilized for institutionalization of community participation in rural water supply programme including Swajaldhara schemes. Each year funds are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

allocated to States under Swajaldhara in accordance with the ARWSP inter State allocation formula.

(c) and (d) As per Swajaldhara Guidelines, the community contribution towards capital cost of Swajaldhara schemes could be in the form of cash/ kind/labour/land or combination of these, with at least 50% of the community contribution being in cash. In the case of Scheduled Tribes areas, the proportion of cash contribution has now been reduced to 25% of the stipulated community contribution.

Role of handicrafts in rural development

†1672. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any study on the role of handicrafts in rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of efforts being made by Government for balanced development of handicrafts etc. in rural areas;

(d) whether any proposal sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding the same is lying pending with the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No such study on the role of handicrafts in rural development has been conducted by the Ministry.

(c) Besides participation in IITF SARAS fair, regional SARAS fairs are being organized by the Ministry from the year 2003-04 on wards in different States of the country to give a platform to market the products made by the rural artisans of all States.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is pending with the Ministry.

Food for work scheme

†1673. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in which 'Food for Work' scheme is in force and the number of persons who get employment under this scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.